

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
19 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 55
(as of 1130 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

2. Egyptian military leaders have been unable to muster sufficient forces to attack the Israeli bridgehead, and the most recent military communique issued by Cairo is cautious in tone. The communique makes no claim of new Egyptian successes and states that the war in the central sector of the front "has intensified." Cairo admits that the Israeli force "which infiltrated at night" has only been partially destroyed.

MORI/CDF -
C02826115

Page Denied

Page Denied

Page Denied

saying that any cease-fire must be accompanied by a restoration of the international borders "as they were before." Al-Ahram editor Haykal's regular Friday article takes a similar position, stating that it is "imperative" that the Arabs fight on until the aim of the fighting is achieved.

17. Haykal says he believes that a cease-fire is not imminent and warns that, even should one occur, Israel would view it as a breathing spell rather than a surrender. The coincidence of the Fahmi statement and the Haykal article with Soviet Premier Kosygin's visit to Cairo suggests that any effort he may have made to urge a cease-fire on the Egyptians is meeting with some opposition.

THE UN

18. The Security Council--which has not met since 12 October--has no present plans to resume its emergency session. Members do not intend to act until some definite proposal is prepared--a step that still seems to await decisive developments on the battlefield. UN Middle East envoy Jarring has no immediate plans to return to New York because he also feels that the situation is not yet ready for a peace initiative.

19. Arab foreign ministers at the UN will meet again this afternoon to plan diplomatic activities supporting Sadat's five-point statement. They should firm up their proposed visits to European capitals--most of the ministers intend to leave New York within the next few days. The ministers have agreed to return, however, if Egypt takes the Middle East issue to the General Assembly, where the Arabs would be unhampered by great power vetoes. Egypt has apparently been in contact with Yugoslavia concerning a draft resolution. As a Security Council member, Yugoslavia could introduce a resolution which, if vetoed, would open the possibility of a special session of the Assembly.

25X1

25X1

POWs

20. The local ICRC representative in Jerusalem has received a list from the Israeli Government of about 750 prisoners of war, the majority of whom are Egyptian. Most are not wounded; those who are wounded are being given good treatment. Neither the Egyptians nor the Syrians, by contrast, have given the ICRC the names of Israeli prisoners in their hands. The representative has not been able to confirm reports from Israeli sources that, during the first few days of fighting, the Syrians were executing Israeli prisoners on the spot.

21. A later announcement on Jerusalem radio claimed that by 18 October, Israel had captured a total of 945 Egyptian and Syrian prisoners.

25X1

25X1

LEBANON

23. All the terrorists involved in the attack on the Bank of America in Beirut were either killed or wounded when Lebanese security forces stormed the building early this morning. A US citizen who had been held as one of the hostages was killed by the terrorists shortly before the bank was retaken. The US Embassy believes the government took firm action in order to signal the fedayeen that it will not tolerate lawlessness. The embassy also believes that the fact that the terrorists did not belong to any fedayeen group reduces the risk of a retaliatory attack on US interests.

25X1

25X1

Page Denied

Page Denied

Page Denied

Page Denied

Page Denied

Page Denied